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Natural Tar Heels Fight Crime
With Modern-Day "Posses"
See Story, Pages 8-10

*Carolina
Country*
July 1980

A Word of Thanks For Honest Politicians

This column by Rolfe Neill, publisher of the Charlotte Observer, is reprinted from the Observer.

So much political scum is to be found in America that it's easy to overlook a rather incredible fact:

North Carolina has not had a major governmental scandal in this century.

It is a remarkable record. Yet, we take honest politicians for granted hereabouts. It is time to sound a prayer of thanksgiving in their behalf.

A World of Rampant Dishonesty

In a world of rampant dishonesty, our officeholders have shown decade after decade that they can be trusted. This is true no matter whether it's Raleigh or Charlotte city hall or Mecklenburg courthouse. It also includes those we send to Washington.

Newspapers' eyebrows are lifted when a Charlotte lame duck school board member signs up for a San Francisco trip or a Mecklenburg County commissioner spends a few hundred taxpayer dollars to visit Germany. Compared to our sister states and cities we are squeaky clean.

Why? I don't know. Are North Carolinians more honest? Are our

voters better at picking elected officials? Are we immune to temptations that ensnare so many others?

When the Abscam story broke about the congressmen and senators alleged to be involved in bribery I would have bet that politicians from at least one of these three states would have been implicated:

New Jersey, New York or Pennsylvania.

Instead, officeholders in all three were accused. Having worked or lived in each of those places, I was not surprised. Corruption, graft and greed are frequent there. Citizens shrug it off. Many politicians in those states consider that their office confers on them the right to pilfer.

Yankees Willing To Grease Palms

Yankees coming down here to build a business are nearly always surprised to find they don't have to bribe a building inspector or a cop or somebody at city hall to grease the way. To them it's a cost of doing business. They're quite willing to pay — being as culpable as the bribe takers — but come away from North Carolina commenting that nobody has his hand out.

Remember that bum once a heartbeat away from the presidency named Spiro Agnew? When he was caught stealing he pouted that they had changed the rules! So much for Maryland's political morality, long infected by the slime of its northern neighbors.

Campaigning A Discouragement

Running for public office is a discouragement. You give up your privacy. The press moves in with you. Every citizen figures he has equal right to your telephone number and your time. The pay is infrequently attractive. Rarely does anyone thank the politician for the many personal sacrifices involved.

Perhaps that is how some excuse their desertion of decency. Not so in this state.

North Carolinians have a strong religious heritage as well as an educational one. We believe in the work ethic. We dread excessive debt and generally avoid it. We are neighborly without being nosy.

All of this goes into forming a people's character. So what our politicians may lack in sophistication is compensated by integrity.

Their trade is called public service and most of us wouldn't want their jobs, can't understand what motivates them to run. We could at the very least be grateful to those who do. Maybe it's assisting a candidate of our choice by working in the campaign. Or it could be a small money donation.

We have been luckier than we know. Let us acknowledge our good fortune to those who provide it.



The Passing Scene

• You might say the Pepsi Cola Co. has run into a communications problem with its advertising in Taiwan. The company's slogan, "Come Alive With Pepsi," has been taken too literally. In Chinese, it translated into, "Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back From the Grave."

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Milly Alford/Editorial Assist. Patricia Harrison/Graphics Assist.

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Alternative Energy Corporation Endorsed

The board of directors of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation has endorsed the new statewide Alternative Energy Corporation.

The board adopted a resolution calling for N.C. EMC to "begin immediately to participate in the activities of the N.C. Alternative Energy Corporation."

N.C. EMC, which represents 26 of the state's 28 rural electric cooperatives, is a power supply generation and transmission organization. It is currently negotiating with Duke Power Co. and Virginia Electric and Power Co. to acquire portions of their generating facilities.

The organization was invited to join the voluntary non-profit corporation by the State Utilities Commission, which has no regulatory authority over the state's EMCs.

"The electric cooperatives in North Carolina are already playing a leadership role in the development of alternative energy sources, so it's only appropriate that they also become actively involved in this effort," said James M. Hubbard, executive vice president of N.C. EMC.

N.C. EMC is now involved in plans for several hydroelectric projects across the state and for building a peat-fired generator in Northeastern North Carolina, he pointed out.

The Alternative Energy Corporation was established in April by the State Utilities Commission as a quasi-public corporation to develop alternative energy sources, including solar, wind, wood, biomass and conservation.

The corporation is to be financed entirely by the state's power suppliers, with policies to be set by a 13-member board of directors. Its membership would include seven representing the public, to be appointed by Gov.

James B. Hunt Jr., and six representing the suppliers — assuming all of them agree to participate.

The new corporation was endorsed three weeks ago by ElectriCities of North Carolina, which represents 67 municipal electric systems across the state.

Both ElectriCities and N.C. EMC have been assigned seats on the agency's board for its first year of operation. To retain the seats after July 1, 1981, they must begin making financial contributions to the corporation, based on kilowatt hour sales.

The concept of the corporation was initially outlined by the Utilities Commission last October

Retired EMC Manager Named To New Corporation's Board

Cecil E. Viverette, who recently retired as executive vice president and general manager of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, has been named to the board of the state Alternative Energy Corporation, representing North Carolina EMC.

Viverette, a veteran of 40 years in the Tar Heel rural electric program, was the chief executive officer of Blue Ridge EMC from 1948 until his retirement in February. Throughout his career, he was active in assisting electric cooperatives in developing countries. He is currently a project coordinator for work in Jamaica.

Viverette was appointed to the new agency's board by N.C. EMC President L. E. (Bill) Beverage, manager of Four County EMC, Burgaw.

Meanwhile, Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. has named seven persons as public representatives on the corporation's 13-member board.

He recommended that one of his appointees, Dr. Jimmie J. Wortman, be appointed chairman of the board. Wortman is director

in a retail rate case involving Duke Power Co. The commission ordered Duke to reserve \$1 million of a \$28.3 million rate hike for use in financing such a project.

Both ElectriCities and N.C. EMC officials have raised questions about the effect of that order on their organizations' financial support of the new corporation. Many consumers of municipal systems and EMCs may already be contributing to it because Duke Power furnishes the electricity to those systems.

Thus far, none of the private power companies serving North Carolina have made a firm commitment to participate in the energy agency.

of the Energy and Environmental Research Division of the Research Triangle Institute and will serve as professor of electrical engineering at N.C. State University next fall.

Other appointees are:
• Charles A. McLendon, Greensboro, executive vice president of Burlington Industries and president of the N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association.

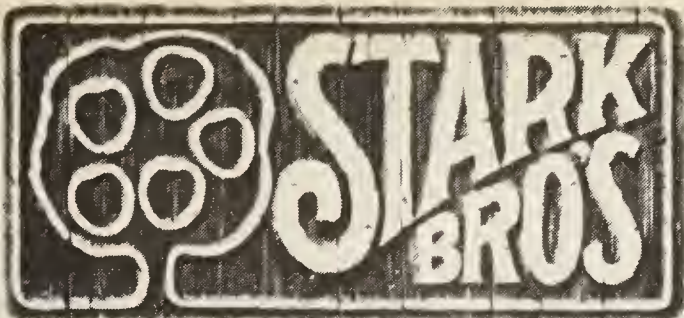
• Greensboro Lawyer McNeill Smith, a former state senator.

• Joyce Anderson, Raleigh, energy director for the N.C. League of Women Voters.

• D. Gray Faulkner, Henderson, a farmer and businessman and vice president of the N.C. Farm Bureau.

• Dr. Winser E. Alexander, Greensboro, chairman of the department of electrical engineering at N.C. A&T State University.

• Ben Gravely, Raleigh, president of the N.C. Solar Energy Association and president of Gravely Research Corp.



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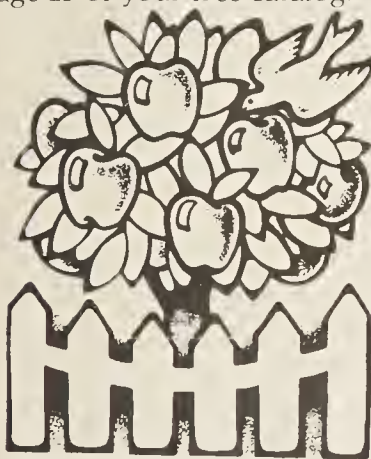
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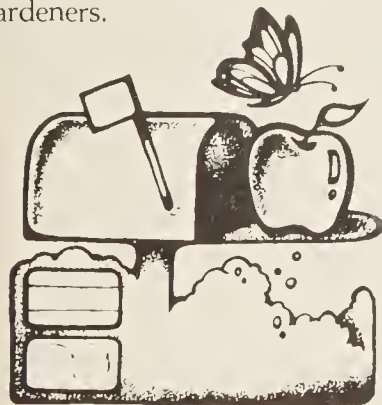
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Veeco-to-CP&L Shift Approved By Voters

A \$6.5 million bond issue to allow the city of Washington, N.C., to disconnect from Virginia Electric and Power Co. was approved overwhelmingly in voting May 6.

Revenue from the bonds will be used to construct about six miles of electrical transmission lines and other equipment to connect the town to Carolina Power & Light Co. The vote was 1,484 to 326.

Before the transfer takes place, the City Council must vote to terminate a contract with VEPCO. Washington purchases electricity wholesale from VEPCO — at rates higher than those charged by CP&L and Duke Power Co. — and directs it through the city-owned electrical system.

City officials hope the switch to CP&L will save money for their industrial and residential customers.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. has called on VEPCO to sell its North Carolina operations, saying the utility's higher rates discourage industrial development in VEPCO's 22-county service region.

For using 1,000 kilowatt-hours during April, a residential customer paid VEPCO \$63.55, compared with \$43.98 for CP&L and \$40.25 for Duke, according to the State Utilities Commission.

VEPCO officials, claiming the company's rates will become

comparable with CP&L's by about 1985, have said they have no intention of selling the service area.

If the City Council votes to disconnect from VEPCO, construction of the lines will require 18 to 24 months, according to a Washington Chamber of Commerce official.

Jordan Seeks Permit For Hydro Site Study

John M. Jordan of Saxapahaw is seeking a federal permit to do a three-year study of the hydroelectric potential of a dam and small lake in Randolph County.

The site features a 52-acre reservoir on Deep River known as Cox Lake, a dam, spillway and the remains of an old powerhouse.

Jordan estimates that the dam and reservoir could generate 1.6 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually. Potential customers of the power are Carolina Power and Light Co.; Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, Asheboro and Dixie Yarns at Cedar Falls.

If Jordan's permit application is accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, a \$45,000 feasibility study would be done on the site to determine its full hydro potential and the cost involved in developing it for that purpose.

N.C. Conservation Program Gets 'Excellent' Rating

Common Cause of North Carolina has announced that the North Carolina Energy Conservation Program ranks with nine other states as a national leader in conservation policies.

A recent letter from Jim Gibson, director of the N.C. Energy Division, to David Cohen, national Common Cause President, clarified three of the state's original responses to a Common Cause survey. More specific information about a trial period of time-of-day pricing, curtailment of declining block rates

in some rate cases, and the power of the state energy office to forecast energy demand raised North Carolina's rating to "excellent."

In the recent Common Cause study, *The Path Not Taken*, North Carolina received a rating of "fair," meeting seven of the fourteen key policies and programs essential to effective state conservation efforts. The three additional positive responses raised to ten the number of test questions met, moving North Carolina up into a category held primarily by the nation's largest states.

The four energy policy matters as yet unmet in North Carolina are state grants or loans for weatherization, mandatory deposits on bottles and cans, reasonable utility rates to encourage cogeneration, and periodic mandatory vehicle efficiency inspections.

Directors Elected At Harkers Island

Two incumbents and a newcomer were elected to the Board of Directors of Harkers Island Electric Membership Corporation at the co-op's recent Annual Meeting.

Re-elected to the board were James T. Gillikin, president, and George G. Barton. Joseph B. Brooks was elected to succeed Carl M. Willis, who had reached the EMC's mandatory retirement age for directors.

Two Tar Heels Get USDA Honors

Two North Carolina men are among 80 U.S. Department of Agriculture employees across the country to be honored by the federal agency for outstanding service.

The USDA Superior Service Award went to William H. Davenport of Kinston, a district director with the Farmers Home Administration and Kenneth Perry of Sylva, Jackson County Agricultural Extension

NCSU Bell Tower In Cover Photo

Raleigh professional photographer Jimmy Williams went back to his alma mater for this shot of North Carolina State University's bell tower. Williams is a 1976 visual design graduate of NCSU.

The photo first appeared on the cover of *The Stater*, NCSU alumni magazine. We're grateful to its editor, Jeri Gray, for permitting us to use it on our cover.

chairman.

Davenport was cited for his leadership in training and motivating FmHA personnel in making rural development "a dynamic force" in the state. Perry was recognized for developing an educational program to help Jackson County residents "recognize their natural resources and use them to better themselves and the county."

Davenport has been district director for 15 years, serving a nine-county area with 38 permanent employees.

Perry was extension chairman in Graham County before assuming his present position in 1967.

Oops!

In the special election coverage in *Carolina Country's* April issue, Second Dist. Rep. L. H. Fountain was identified as being from Farmville. Our apologies go to the Congressman, who is, in fact, from Tarboro.

Guild Craft Fair Set For July 15-19

The 33rd Annual Guild Fair of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild is scheduled for July 15-19 at Asheville's Civic Center. The event will feature craft sales, demonstrations, folk music and exhibits.

General admission is \$2.50; children under 12, \$1.

EMCs Survey Consumers On Power Use Patterns

Nearly 30,000 consumer-members of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations are currently being asked to provide information on their home power use patterns as part of a survey by all 28 of the state's EMCs.

The randomly-selected consumers are being asked to complete a questionnaire which seeks information on the types of

appliances and heating and cooling systems in use in the home.

It also asks what steps the consumer has taken to conserve energy and how much electricity is being used during those periods each day when demand for power is at its highest.

Data from the survey will be used by the EMCs to develop projections for the electric power demands they'll be facing in the years ahead, as required by the Rural Electrification Administration.

The questionnaires began going out to members of some EMCs in June, with others scheduled for mailing in July.

Oil Firms Contrived To Make Fuel Scarce

Several multinational oil companies contrived to make petroleum scarce in consuming countries during 1978 and early 1979 as a prelude to boosting prices, a Washington-based energy consumer group has charged.

The Energy Action Educational Foundation study said the majors also accidentally triggered last year's gasoline crisis by acting "deliberately and concertedly to tighten the market worldwide for petroleum products and crude oil simultaneously."

The American Petroleum Institute called the study a "tired rehash of unfounded allegations."

A Guide To Coastal Off-Road Driving

The UNC Sea Grant program is offering free copies of a pamphlet listing sites along the Tar Heel coast that are open to off-road driving.

The pamphlet, which also points out local regulations and suggests ways drivers can protect plants and wildlife, was prepared by Sea Grant researchers Paul Hosier and Tom Easton.

For a copy, write for *Making Tracks*, a guide to off-road driving at the coast, UNC Sea Grant, Box 5001, Raleigh, N.C. 27650.

Home Folks

Stuart R. Paine of Pinehurst, North Carolina, state chairman for Ducks Unlimited, has been named state chairman of the year by the national organization . . . **William Edwin Winn** of Laurinburg, president of the N.C. Consumers Council, was named Consumer Advocate of the Year by the statewide group at its recent annual meeting. He was also re-elected for another term as president . . . **L. Marion Dilday** of Belhaven has been presented with the seventh annual Distinguished Alumnus Award by the N.C. State University School of Life Sciences. The 1943 NCSU agronomy graduate is president and general manager of Circle Grove Seeds, Inc. and Circle Grove Farms, Inc. The firms encompass grain crop farming, livestock and seed processing . . . **Dr. Banks C. Talley Jr.**, vice chancellor of N.C. State University, has received the Cultural Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Interior for his work in historic preservation. He is founder and president of the Historic Preservation Fund, which buys historic properties . . . **Noah Woods**, principal of Oxendine Elementary School in Maxton, has been named to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education by President Carter . . . **Jim Hudson** of Raleigh, associate editor of the *Southeast Farm Press*, has been named editor of the weekly farm newspaper which is headquartered in Clarksdale, Miss. Hudson, who will continue to be based in Raleigh, is an N.C. State University graduate who previously worked for *Progressive Farmer* magazine.

Rural Tar Heels Fight Crime With Modern-Day Posses

North Carolina's rural residents have found a way to combat crime in their neighborhoods that might have been borrowed from the legendary horse opera heros of old.

It was dramatized so often in unnumbered Saturday matinees across the land when Roy and Gene and Hoppy brought law and order to the silver screen's mythical Old West.

How could we forget: The sheriff, finding himself unprepared to deal with the latest evils confronting his frontier community, would call on the townspeople to join him in a posse to pursue the current villains. The menfolk would quickly mount up and ride away in a cloud of dust — proud to be helping protect their own. And they never returned empty-handed.

Throughout North Carolina, a modern-day equivalent to those sheriff's posses has emerged to play a similar role in rural communities where law enforcement must spread too few officers and too little equipment over far too much territory.

They no longer ride away in pursuit of criminals, but they take just as much pride in their contributions to law and order — which have virtually eliminated property crimes in many areas and drastically reduced them in others.

These posses consist of ordinary citizens in a community — men, women and children — who

maintain a constant vigil for crime.

They're know by various names — Crime Watch, Community Watch, Neighborhood Watch — but in each case their mission is the same: To stay alert for suspicious activities and report them immediately to law enforcement officials.

"We're not a vigilante group," says the leader of one such community association. "Our members don't carry guns or try to take the law into their own hands. Law enforcement as such is left to the sheriff's department, although there have been times when we have nipped a burglary in the bud simply by arriving on the scene."

Patrolling Not Encouraged

Indeed, most of these groups don't even have established patrols — but their members are constantly on watch at home and as they drive through their neighborhoods, both day and night.

"We don't encourage patrolling," said Jay Trivette, director of the Crime Watch program within the state's Crime Prevention Division.

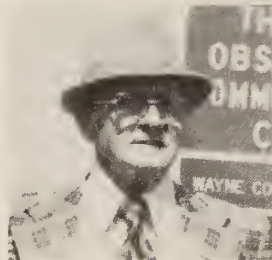
"We give these groups tips on making their homes more secure and urge them to be on guard about giving out too much information to strangers. We ask only that they observe. This is a most effective way of using the eyes and ears of people in the communities to help law enforcement."

More than 3,000 of these organizations are currently at work across the state — in both urban and rural communities. And the number is growing, as Tar Heels are becoming more concerned about a crime wave which netted about \$3 million in 1978 from farm thefts alone.

Trivette says it's anybody's guess as to how many people are involved in these organizations. But, since the statewide program's office was established in August, 1977, it has distributed more than 300,000

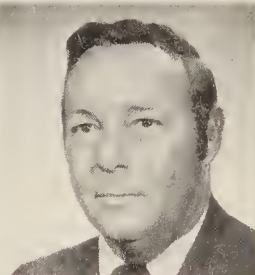
Audrey Shoemaker, chairman of Caldwell County's Mt. Hermon Neighborhood Watch: "Law enforcement . . . cannot be everywhere all of the time. So this program is a way that the average citizen can help them do their job better."

George Peele, chairman of Wayne County's Hood Swamp-Wood's Grove Community Watch: The program "can be one of the best deterrents to crime available if the people will just participate."



Wilton Rowe/Tri-County EMC

Jay Trivette, state crime watch director: "We know that if we don't do anything else with this program, we'll make a tremendous difference by getting people to know who lives next door, to care about each other and help each other."



booklets describing how crime watch groups operate — and even more leaflets encouraging the use of identification numbers of valuables.

The office was established under the administration of Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. as part of the state's Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Gov. Hunt A Crime Watch Booster

Gov. Hunt had been an enthusiastic booster of Community Watch programs as Lt. Governor and has continued to sing their praises since moving into the executive mansion in 1977.

"North Carolina's ultimate weapon against crime," he says, "is people helping people. That's what Community Watch is all about. I believe in people helping each other. That's why these programs are so important."

Trivette was brought in as the first director of the state office after having spent 19 years with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, part of that time as crime prevention officer.

In that role, he saw the beginnings of a sort of grass roots revolt against residential crime, as neighborhood protection associations began springing up almost on their own.

(Continued on Page 10)



Helping People "Care About Each Other"

Assisting law enforcement with crime control may be the primary objective of Tar Heel community watch organizations, but most of them go far beyond that to become focal points for social functions and community improvement activities.

Caldwell County's Mt. Hermon organization, for example, sponsors clean-up campaigns and fund-raising projects, with the proceeds going to assist the victims of fires and to help cover the expenses of residents who must take time from work to appear in court as part of a prosecution.

The funds also support a standing reward that's offered for information on crimes in the area.

Members of the group also do their share of house-watching while neighbors are away for extended periods, keeping lights burning at night, moving cars and otherwise maintaining the illusion that the residents are at home.

In other communities, the groups have sponsored what's known as "helping mothers" programs, according to State Crime Watch Director Jay Trivette.

In such programs, the organization marks certain homes with special identification signs "so that any child can immediately know where to go if he or she should need help."

Still others carry on regular "court watch" projects which call for residents to observe courtroom trials and report back to community meetings in the interest of educating people about the judicial process.

What may be these organizations' most important achievement, however, is that they're helping people get to know their neighbors again.

"We've seen the neighborliness improve 100 percent because of Neighborhood Watch," said Mrs. Shoemaker.

She knew most of the people in the neighborhood when she was growing up there 30 years ago, but in recent years, she had known only the people in her church.

"Now, I can go anywhere—and I know the people all over the area."

Lt. Wayne Clark of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department agreed that this improved neighbor-to-neighbor relationship has been one of the most important developments to come out of the crime watch activity.

"This is like going back 25 or 30 years and getting people to where they're concerned about each other again," he said.

Said Gaston County's crime prevention officer, Lt. Don King: "People have gotten so they don't even know who lives next door—and this is just a way to help them get to know their neighbors and establish a friendly relationship with them"

Trivette added: "We know that if we don't do anything else with this program, we'll make a tremendous difference by getting people to know who lives next door, to care about each other and to help each other."

(Continued from Page 9)

In the early 1970s, the National Sheriffs' Association was distributing literature on the concept to law enforcement personnel, who put it into the hands of interested community leaders.

They pretty much took it from there, organizing the groups, establishing observation policies, electing officers. Law enforcement officials assisted when they could.

The movement stemmed partly from a growing awareness on the part of the citizens that law enforcement agencies — particularly in rural areas — simply must have help in coping with the rising crime rate.

Law Enforcement Has "Impossible" Job

"It's just a totally impossible job," said Lt. Wayne Clark, crime prevention officer with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department. "With the staffing and equipment we have, it's impossible — and I'd say we're one of the best-equipped departments in the state."

A total of 37 Community Watch groups are operating in Caldwell. They cover more than 60 percent of the county's population.

"The program has reduced property crimes in this county by 30 percent. It's the only thing we know of that has actually reduced crime — and it doesn't cost anything except the time people spend on it."

When the movement was in its infancy in 1974-75, Caldwell experienced about 70 break-ins monthly. That figure has dropped to 25 or 30.

"So, it works," Clark said.

Gaston County Claims 87 Organizations

In Gaston County, 87 Community Watch groups are on duty, helping to protect about 38,000 people — or half of the rural population. And they range in size from one covering hundreds of houses in an entire town to one that covers nine homes, according to Lt. Don King, crime prevention officer with the Gaston County Police Department.

Since they began organizing, the number of break-ins has dropped from 1,400 to 1,000 a year. And the total for 1979 was 90 below the figure for 1978.

Similar results are evident on a smaller scale at the opposite end of the state, where the population is smaller and far more scattered.

In Wayne County, Sheriff Bill Adams says the Community Watch groups there have been most helpful to his department.

One of them, in particular, has been so effective that "they've just run all the criminals out because it's common knowledge that they're on the job."

The one he cited involves a community in northern Wayne that's anchored by two country churches: Hood Swamp Friends Church and Wood's Grove Pentecostal Freewill Baptist Church. Thus, the group is organized as the Hood Swamp-Wood's Grove Community Watch.

Its sparkplug is Chairman George Peele, a retired farmer and restaurant operator, who says the program "can be one of the best deterrents to crime available if the people will just participate."

In this case, they do indeed. Of the 300 families living in the community, Peele estimates that about 250 are involved in the crime prevention effort. And about 100 of them are engaged in regular patrolling of the area by motor vehicle.

"We always have two riding at a time — sometimes it's a man and his wife," said Peele.

These patrols go out primarily at night, with only occasional daytime trips. They're usually out about four hours at a time, but their schedules and routes are varied daily.

Wayne Community's Crime Down 95%

Since the group was organized two years ago, the area's crime rate has dropped by 95 percent, Peele pointed out.

A similar record has been compiled by Caldwell's Mt. Hermon community, which is situated about six miles southeast of Lenoir.

The Mt. Hermon Neighborhood Watch, one of the county's first such groups, has gained a reputation for its vigilance.

"If there's anything at all going on that's out of the ordinary, you can be sure we'll report it," said Audrey Shoemaker, a business woman who serves as chairman of the group. "In fact, we're notorious for that. I've heard people say they know they have to be careful when they come into our community or they might be reported."

The group, one of the first to be organized in Caldwell County, no longer conducts organized patrols.

Instead, since most of the residents commute to nearby cities to work they make a special effort to take various routes on their way in and out of the community.

As a result, the area's crime rate has dropped from 10 to 12 break-in incidents monthly to almost nothing. Only two break-ins have been reported there since the crime watch group was organized in 1976.

Says Mrs. Shoemaker: "Law enforcement is so important—without it we can't have anything else, education or what have you. But they cannot be everywhere all the time. So this program is a way that the average citizen can help them do their job better."

—Owen Bishop

For additional information on organizing Community Watch groups, contact your local Sheriff's Department or Police Department—or write to the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Crime Prevention, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N.C. 27611

Extension Agent Gets National Award

Minnie Miller Brown, a North Carolina State University faculty member, has been selected as one of the first two winners of a \$10,000 Winthrop Rockefeller Award for Distinguished Rural Service.

Mrs. Brown is a state agent for the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and associate professor of adult and community college education.

Her award was presented recently in ceremonies in Washington. The other award recipient, Roman Kettler of South Dakota, was honored at the same time. Mrs. Brown and Kettler were chosen for the first Winthrop Rockefeller Awards from over 170 nominees from 44 states.

Advocate of Rural People

She was selected because of her role as an advocate for rural people, especially minorities and women in the South.

Mrs. Brown has been a national leader in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Educational Program in which workers of the Agricultural Extension Service provide in-the-home teaching for disadvantaged families. About 60,000 families in North Carolina alone have been reached through this program.

Mrs. Brown is also co-author of a book *Black Farmers: The Black Experience in American Agriculture and Rural Life*, which will be released later this year.

A Salisbury Native

The Salisbury native began her extension career as a home economics agent in Charlotte. She later became a district agent and then a state agent stationed at A.&T. University in Greensboro. She has been at NCSU since 1967.

Mrs. Brown has a bachelor's degree in home economics from Bennett College, master's degree

in rural sociology from Cornell University, and has done doctoral work in adult education at the University of Chicago.

The Winthrop Rockefeller Award for Distinguished Rural Service was established last year

through a grant to the National Rural Center from the Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust. It was established to memorialize the late Arkansas governor, who had a keen interest in rural development.

Tar Heel Joins Finance Organization

A former employee of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation has been named Planning Engineer in the Power Supply Department of the National Rural Utilities Finance Corporation (CFC), headquartered in Washington.

She is Patricia Lloyd Williams, who served as project engineer with N.C. EMC for more than three years. She assumed the new post on June 1.

N.C. EMC is the power supply generating and transmission cooperative which serves Tar Heel rural electric cooperatives. The finance organization is a lending institution which provides private money market loans to electric co-ops across the country as a supplement to Rural Electrification Administration financing.

Ms. Williams, a Thomasville native, will be responsible for working with generation and transmission system financing, providing engineering assistance to CFC borrowers, and determining technical feasibility of proposed projects.


The N.C. State University nuclear engineering graduate left N.C. EMC in January to join her husband, Andy, in moving to the Washington area. He was an engineer with the N.C. Utilities Commission prior to taking a utilities post there.

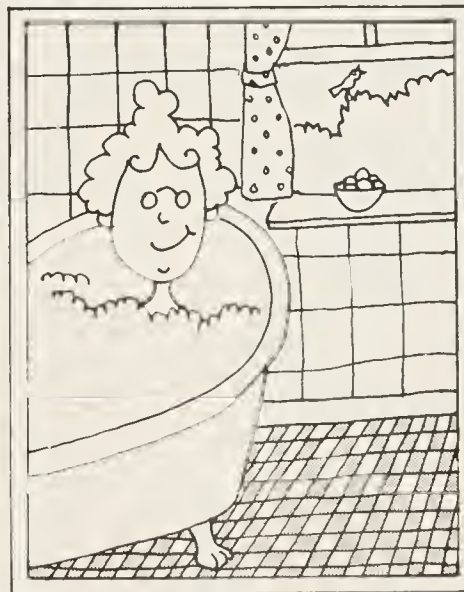
GRANNY SAYS, "DON'T GET ALL STEAMED UP!"

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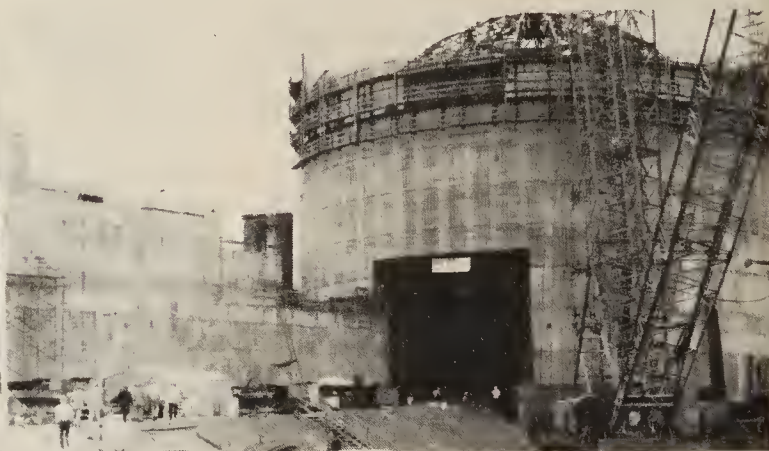


EMC Officials Tour Duke Nuclear Plant

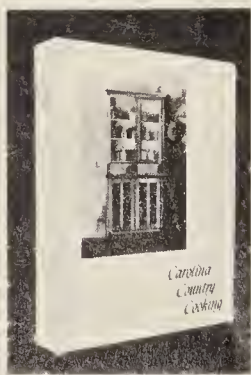


LEFT—Duke Power Company employee Boyd Sigman describes the instrument panel of the control room at Duke's Catawba Nuclear Plant for members of the board of directors of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation during a recent tour of the plant's construction site. Observing are, left to right, James Melton, a director at Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville; Phillip Wally, manager of Union EMC, Monroe; Robert Holmes, manager of Tri-County EMC, Goldsboro and Kelly Hutchens, manager of Surry-Yadkin EMC, Dobson.

BELOW—The group enters the Unit 2 reactor buildings. At left is the spent fuel storage facility for Unit 2.



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Wood-For-Fuel Program "Just Too Good To Last"

Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton is aggressive and innovative. The country's youngest governor at 31, he is often mentioned as one of the rising stars in American politics. But even rising stars take a dip now and then, and Clinton tripped and fell recently over nothing bigger than a woodpile.

A Modest But Promising Idea

His administration had a program called Special Alternative Wood Energy Resources (SAWER), a fancy name for a modest yet promising idea: Jobless people would be hired to chop firewood for the poor and elderly. Federal money would pay the salaries of the woodsmen.

All went well until the program ran into federal regulation that forbade the wood choppers from splitting kindling on the land of the elderly folks for whom it was intended. At the final tally, \$69,000 was spent to chop 12

cords of woods, and the program, not Arkansas timber, got the ax.

Clinton's opponents and other political wags are having a lot of fun with this fiasco, and rightly so. Any program that depends upon the federal government for its money ought to be well researched before the program gets started. The federal codes are riddled with all manner of arcane roadblocks that have doomed or impeded grander and more worthy ventures than this over the interpretation of a clause or a comma.

For his part, Clinton apologized and got the resignation of the fellow who dreamed up the firewood notion. He's not about to let a firewood program damage his chances for a second term as Arkansas's governor.

What we want to know is why he's not asking for the resignation of the Washington bureaucrat who wrote that prohibitive regulation in the first place. There, squirreled away in some drab federal warren, is the real culprit.

Clinton's program was a good one. It might not solve the energy crisis, but it had all the earmarks of creativity that most governmental responses to this crisis lack. Some people got work. Some people got fuel. It was just too good and too simple to last.

Bureaucrats Frown on Simplicity

Bureaucrats and energy experts frown on simplicity as though it were but a step away from simple-mindedness. They prefer to concoct synfuel utopias, where no dream is worth dreaming unless it is complicated. Complications imply intelligence, according to this recipe, and no expert wants to appear anything less than intelligent.

Is the ethic of the best and the brightest with us still? Is the energy crisis our latest Vietnam? When people are forbidden from unshouldering an ax to chop wood for the elderly and the poor, it is hard to think otherwise.

—Greensboro Daily News

Three Mile Island Brings Improvement In Nuclear Safety

Those who have been opposed to nuclear power or afraid of it have used the Three Mile Island accident as evidence to support their contentions.

The power industry, to its credit, has taken the lessons learned from the mishap and has made changes in the operation and construction of nuclear plants which, in one observer's words, "make nuclear power 10 times safer than it was before."

We strongly believe in nuclear power as a major factor in maintaining progress and a good standard of living in the United States . . .

There will likely always be opponents of nuclear power, but there have always been opponents to progressive developments; and in 1859 a bill was introduced into the Congress to abolish the Patent Office, the reason given being that everything had already been invented.

Stanly News & Press
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Tar Heel EMC Leaders Visit Lawmakers

About 80 managers and directors from North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations called on members of the Tar Heel Congressional delegation during a legislative conference in Washington, May 8-9.

In meetings with the lawmakers on Capitol Hill, the visitors asked for support of various pieces of legislation affecting the rural electric cooperatives across the country, including a proposed 1981 budget for Rural Electrification Administration loans of between \$850 million and \$1.2 million.

The delegation was also asked to support measures for:

- Providing for the safe and ultimate disposal of nuclear waste, as a means of clearing the path for orderly development of nuclear energy.
- Directing federal agencies to undertake an orderly leasing policy under the Department of

Interior's federal coal management program, to further tap this important domestic source of energy.

- Authorization of REA to funnel grants to co-ops for the testing and demonstration of supplemental or alternative energy technologies.

- Development of several hydroelectric projects.
- Authorization of \$3.1 million for a peat-fueled generating plant in Northeastern North Carolina.

- Low-interest loan program to finance purchase and installation of energy conservation materials and equipment by co-op consumer-members.

- Adequate funding for the Department of Energy's research efforts for development of solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and small-scale hydro.

- Assuring that a co-op's financial integrity is protected from possible adverse, short-term effects because of conservation, through current programs of loan and interest payment deferrals and through partial loan forgiveness.



LEFT—Sen. Robert Morgan, right, discusses current legislation with officials of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations at the U.S. Capitol during the group's recent visit with the Tar Heel Congressional delegation in Washington. Seated on the front row are, from the left: William T. Marion, Rt. 1, Dobson, member relations director for Surry-Yadkin EMC, Dobson; George Wilkes of Ocracoke, a director with Tideland EMC, Pantego; Hassel Gann of Rt. 1, Mayodan, a director at Davidson EMC, Lexington; Edward E. Brown Jr. of Rt. 1, Hertford, manager of Albemarle EMC and president of the N.C. Association of Electric Co-ops (N.C. AEC); W. J. Wynn Jr. of Havelock, president of Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City and B. F. Morton Jr., manager of Carteret-Craven EMC. Seated on the senator's right is James M. Hubbard, executive vice president of N.C. AEC.



LEFT—A delegation from Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, visits with Seventh District Rep. Charles Rose, left. The group includes, from the left: James Lee Burney, director of public and environmental affairs with N.C. AEC; and three Lumbee River EMC directors—Alton Dudley of Rt. 4, Raeford; Davis Parker of Fayetteville (standing) and Harold Dean Brewer of Rt. 1, Red Springs.

BELOW—Fifth District Rep. Stephen Neal, left, greets the Tar Heel rural electric delegation, which includes, from the left: Joe Pendry of Rt. 1, Boonville, a director with Surry-Yadkin EMC, Dobson; Tom Cockerham of Jefferson, a director at Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir; John R. Austin, president of Blue Ridge EMC and Ralph W. Beane, of Rt. 1, State Road, president of Surry-Yadkin EMC.



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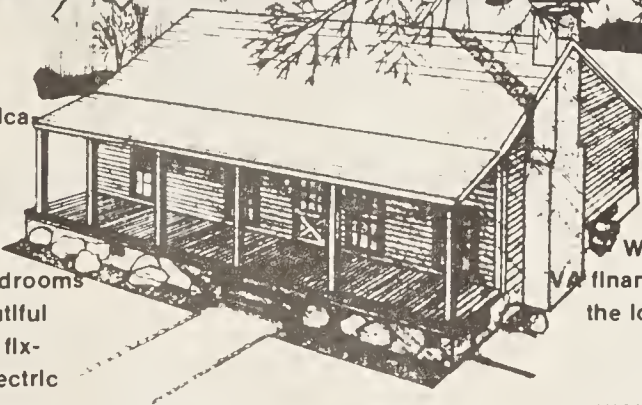
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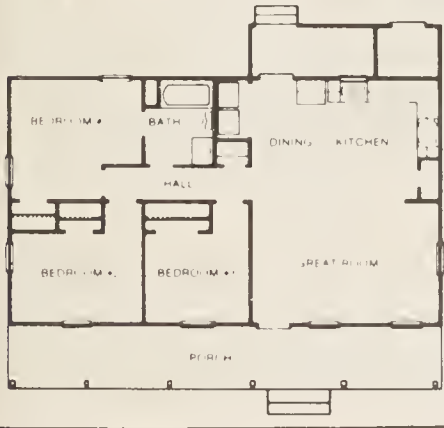


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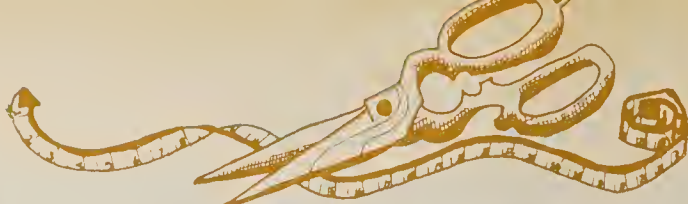
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Country Kitchen



Broccoli Casserole

Everyone is looking for new ways to cook fresh, garden vegetables this time of year, and this Broccoli Casserole recipe from Mrs. Carpenter is an excellent way to use fresh broccoli. It's a good family dish or a delicious addition to any covered dish supper. And it is even more special because it can be cooked ahead of time and frozen for later use.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Paul J. Carpenter of Thomasville
BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 bunch fresh broccoli | 1 Tbl. chopped onion |
| 2 C. cooked rice | 1 C. canned milk |
| 1 can cream of celery soup | 1 small jar Cheez Whiz |

Cook broccoli until tender. Arrange in bottom of greased casserole dish. Mix rice, soup (undiluted), onion (optional), milk and cheese. Spread over broccoli and bake at 325° for 30 to 40 minutes. Can be frozen.

SPECIAL SUMMERTIME OFFER: We have been deluged with delicious dessert recipes during the past several months, but would like to receive some interesting meat, vegetable and salad recipes. Recipes other than desserts which are mailed by Aug. 31 and accepted for publication will bring a \$10 fee — double our usual rate! Send your recipes to COUNTRY KITCHEN, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

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Best Alternative Energy Source :

In the immediate future, the best "alternative" energy source for the U.S. appears to be conservation, including improved auto mileage and maximum use of insulation.

That's the opinion of M. L. Walden and T. E. Nichols Jr., extension economists at North Carolina State University.

"It is estimated that the nation could consume 30 to 40 percent less energy and maintain approximately the same standard of living," Walden and Nichols said.

The greatest incentive for conservation, they added, is higher energy prices.

The economists' comments were included in a series of articles on "Alternative Energy Sources" for a recent issue of *Tar Heel Economist*, monthly publication of NCSU's extension economics and business staff.

They said America has undergone two energy transformations in its history — first transforming the energy base of its economy from wood to coal, and second from coal to a primary dependence on oil.

"Many believe we are now beginning our third major energy transformation, from oil to alternative energy sources," they said.

Oil currently provides 60 percent of U.S. energy consumption, natural gas 25 percent, coal 18 percent, nuclear power 4 percent, and all other (primarily hydro) 3 percent.

The proportion of the nation's oil supply that is imported has increased steadily in the last decade and has now reached about 50 percent.

"Our national energy problem is not one of a lack of domestic energy resources per se," Walden and Nichols said. "The known U.S. coal reserves are equivalent to Saudi Arabia's oil reserve. In addition, nuclear and solar power offer substantial long-run



Coal—About 90 percent of the nation's proven energy reserves are coal. But investment in coal mining is stalled until a credible federal energy policy is established with respect to production and pollution. With such a policy, it may be possible to boost coal production by 50 percent and to supply one-fourth of U.S. energy needs in the late 1980s.



Synthetic fuels—Liquid fuels can be made from coal, oil shale and tar sands, of which the United States has large reserves. Currently these processes cost more per barrel than imported oil.



Solar power—The technology of solar power is known and available; the major constraint is the relative cost compared with other systems.



Nuclear power—Once thought to be the nation's energy savior, nuclear power today is plagued by problems of safety and waste disposal. Optimistically, if all the plants currently being built or planned were completed on schedule in the early 1990s, nuclear power still would account for only 7 percent of total U.S. energy consumption.



Biomass fuels—These include fuels from wood, crops and waste. They have the potential of producing almost 8 percent of current U.S. energy needs. Environmental considerations and high relative costs are the major constraints.



Conservation—This "could be the best 'alternative' energy source available in the short run."

Walden and Nichols said the U.S. food and fiber system (production, manufacture and

Conservation

potential in meeting our energy needs.

"The immediate problem is that oil and natural gas constitute 75 percent of our energy consumption; yet only 8 percent of our proven domestic energy reserves are in these two sources.

"Major new reserve finds and improved recovery technology will be required to keep domestic production of oil and natural gas at current levels even with price decontrol and no windfall profits tax."

The NCSU economists gave this evaluation of alternative energy sources:

distribution) uses about 16.5 percent of annual energy consumption in America. Of this total, 3 percent is used in farm production, 6.5 percent in manufacturing and distribution, and 7 percent in food preparation by consumers.

"The importance of energy to U.S. agriculture should not be judged solely on its share of national energy use," the economists said. They added that any disruption in the availability of energy in the form, time and place needed could result in adverse effects to the food system lasting well beyond the initial interruption.

Energy use in residences accounts for 20 percent of total U.S. energy consumption, Walden and Nichols said. Within the home, approximately 53 percent of the energy is used for space heating, 14 percent for water heating, 7 percent for air conditioning, 5 percent for refrigeration, and 21 percent for appliances, lighting and other uses.

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Only A Handful Have Complaints

Complaints about the noise and television interference from the wind turbine generator at Boone have come from only a small handful of that community's 13,000 residents.

Thus far, only four families who live near the machine have complained about the noise it makes. Another 11 families say it interferes with TV reception when the blades turn and an additional eight families say they have experienced both problems.

All of the complaints have come from residents of the Rainbow Trail and Howard's Creek communities, which are in a valley behind the windmill away from Boone.

The 100-foot-long steel blades produce a sound because of the high velocity of the tips (300 mph at times). Also, there is a sound produced from the impact of the blades on the turbulent air which passes through the tower.

TV Interference Expected

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spokesmen say television interference was expected because it has occurred at other populated areas where smaller wind turbine generators are located. Ghosts and flutters occur on television screens at times because the steel blades disturb incoming TV signals much as aircraft do.

The sound problem, NASA officials say, was not expected. One "question mark", they say, is why some families are disturbed by the sounds while others say they have heard no unusual noises — even when they live in adjacent homes. These and other unknowns are being studied by several research teams.

The Solar Energy Research Institute of Colorado and researchers from Pennsylvania State University installed measuring devices temporarily in some of the homes to gather data. And the Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories of Washington State collected information on weather conditions to determine how they affect the noise.

General Electric Co., the firm that built the generator, has made temporary modifications to allow reducing the speed of the blades from

35 revolutions per minute (rpms) to 20 or more rpms. This will be done to determine if such a speed reduction helps to reduce sound levels.

A permanent modification made to reduce the rotation speed of the blades is planned for November. Fiberglass blades will be installed in the spring of 1981, and could lessen both the sound produced and television interference. Plans to install fiberglass blades for research were made before the problems were discovered.

In an effort to solve the television interference problem, Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, the utility that will operate the generator, has installed special, highly-directional TV antennas at the homes of volunteers to determine if they improve reception. Data collected must be analyzed and it may be late summer before results will be known. At present, the wind turbine generator is not operated at night or on weekends in an effort to avoid disturbing families who are affected by television interference or noise.

Formal 'hands-on' training to operate the wind turbine generator has been completed by a half dozen employees of Blue Ridge EMC.

Utility training followed testing of the wind turbine conducted by General Electric. The tests were conducted to demonstrate that the machine performs as designed. During the test, engineers from GE, NASA and Blue Ridge witnessed the machine operating at the full-rated power of 2,000 kilowatts (KW). The wind

generator first produced electric energy into the EMC's electric distribution system in October, 1979.

The computer-controlled wind turbine can be operated from the site of the machine or from the utility's headquarters in Lenoir, some 30 miles from Boone. The machine is currently operated intermittently, with scheduled interruptions to do experiments, perform routine maintenance, and conduct system and component evaluations.

Machine Virtually Automatic

The operation of the machine is almost completely automatic. The operator must start the machine if it has not been operating and must "tell" the machine how much electric energy to generate.

Before the machine actually begins generating electricity, it automatically checks a variety of items including wind speed and direction, blade angle, and rotor speed. It continues to align the machine to the wind, sets the blade pitch and when "all systems are go" ties into the Blue Ridge Electric's power lines. When the machine becomes fully operational, it will be run primarily by the dispatcher in Lenoir.

"So many safety measures are built into this program that I feel that the machine won't let me make a mistake," said Leon Blythe, the EMC's dispatcher in the training program. "And if I do make an error, the machine stops, and the computer prints out 'why'. It's almost like it 'talks' to me," he said.

Although formal utility training has been completed, NASA's John Collins said it may be up to a year or more before the co-op begins operating the generator.

"The timing for Blue Ridge to take over the operation of the machine depends in part on how quickly the sound and television interference problems are solved," said Collins. "We'll also want to install the fiberglass blades and a lower rpm generator before the machine becomes fully operational," he said.

NASA plans to replace the machine's 35 rpm generator with a 23 rpm unit.



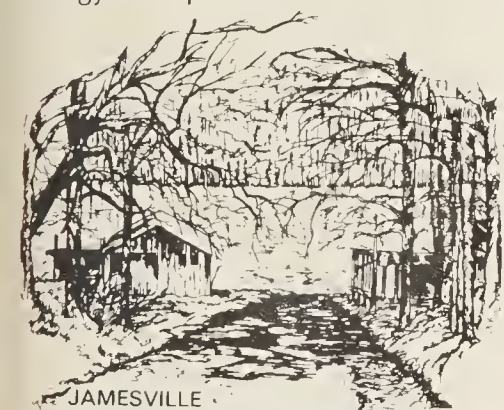


Spring Comes To The Roanoke by Charles S. Manooch, III. Era Press, Davidson. 140 pages. \$7.95.

Chuck Manooch, the Raleigh native who now lives in Morehead City, is doubtless completely faithful to his 'wife and best friend, Geneviev' — to whom this excellent book is dedicated. But there is little doubt that he also has a long-standing "love affair" with the streams and rivers of Eastern North Carolina, and the fish that swim in these streams.

Dr. Manooch, who is a research biologist with a Ph.D. in zoology from North Carolina State University, has come up with an interesting admixture of folksy stories and technical details on spawning habits, fishing techniques, the best places to use those techniques and how Tar Heels catch eels — for the export market.

My colleague Phil Edwards of Raleigh, state biologist for the Soil Conservation Service, has looked over this book and declared it a useful and scholarly treatment from the fish biology standpoint.



Like many another North Carolina writer, Chuck Manooch tells a dandy tale. So you read about food — backbone, barbecue, collards, field peas, as well as all kinds of fish.

But fish and fishing are the name of the tune. You have fishermen netting herring in icy weather more often associated with goose hunting; a huge government fish trap that doesn't really work and the man using a frog for bait — who caught a large water moccasin (not exactly a fish in either case). And that isn't the whole story. The angler left the moccasin on the hook to die. When he came back, this

unusual bait had hooked a 20-pound roe rockfish.

Somehow, the way Chuch Manooch tells his stories they are completely believable, unlike most "fish stories" I've heard. I guess there is a difference between fish tales and stories about fishing.

This dandy book about an important North Carolina sport is well-illustrated with sketches by Denise George, a Mebane native who is a commercial artist in Greenville.

—Frank Jeter Jr.

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow — The Farmer Takes a Hand, by Marquis W. Childs. 178 Pages. Published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. \$2.

Washing machines, electric stoves, crop dryers, miling machines and conveyor belts seem so natural on the farm today it's sometimes hard to imagine things were ever any other way.

The idea of electric power in most of rural America is so second-nature now it seems odd there were ever bitter battles over the concept.

In *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow — The Farmer Takes a Hand*, Marquis Childs traces the course of the 45-year-old rural electrification movement from its depression-days origins through the nuclear age.

The largest chunk of the book, published in 1952, sets the background for the effort by describing the collapse of the farm economy that preceded

the Great Depression. On the farm and in Washington, feelings were strong that something had to be done.

The narrative details the study groups and test programs that evolved into the Rural Electrification Administration, set up in large part to pump money into rural America. The book also explains the often fierce disputes between electric utilities and groups of farmers who had organized into rural electric cooperatives.

Childs also touches on the world impacts and personal effects of rural electrification. He notes how electricity helped turn American farmers into the most productive in the world. But he doesn't ignore what the new power meant in more human terms. Quoting a farm woman discussing the coming of electricity: "Well, we just turned on the light and looked at each other — it was the first time I'd seen Pa after dark in thirty years."

The book leaves off as rural electrification begins another challenge: the change from an almost-religious promotion of electric power use to the encouragement of conservation and load management programs, and the management of the need for electricity in a world with a volatile energy situation and increasing consciousness of how scarce resources are used.

—Paul Wesslund

NRECA Washington Correspondent
Copies of the Childs book may be ordered from the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Exploring The Mountains of North Carolina By Faris Jane Corey. Provincial Press, Chapel Hill. 60 pages. \$4.95.

Technical perfection is a quality to be admired, and we have many well-executed masterpieces, done either by a skilled photographer or by a gifted artist, in what some folks have called "coffee table books."

But certain subjects require a genuine affection, as well as good perspective, to do the job right. And so this softback is worth mentioning.

Faris Jane Corey is the writer. Philip Moose provides many top-drawer hand-sketched illustrations. And Jeanette Shirley provides highway sketch maps that are themselves more like illustrations than something from Rand McNally.

These artists combine to provide a dandy travel guide for people seeking to enjoy relaxation, scenery, trout streams, food worth a little extra travel, and similar attractions which are in many cases unique to western North Carolina.

The book has the elements of some two dozen resort areas with varied mountain attractions, from outdoor dramas to wild boar hunting to the Blue Ridge Parkway, which some early North Carolina statesmen won away from our sister mountain state of Tennessee almost 50 years ago.

Christmas tree farms and good restaurants share this loving attention, together with mountain crafts and the fine small cottages found in the region. Fontana Dam, Nantahala Gorge and similar attractions are covered with words and illustrations.

Pick up a copy before you plan your mountain vacation.

—Frank Jeter Jr.

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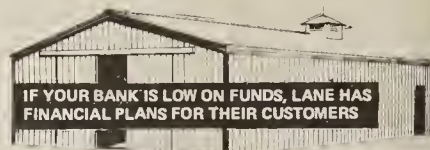
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A Rebuttal and a Plea: Become Your Own Experts

Believing that Mr. Robert M. Upton, manager of public relations for Texasgulf Chemicals, did me and your readers a disservice in his letter to me, printed in your April issue, I beg your indulgence in allowing me to reply:

(1) Mr. Upton claims I wrongly equated public relations to propaganda. The Grolier edition of the *New Webster Dictionary*, however, defines propaganda as "the propagation of doctrines and tenets of special interests" and defines a propagandist as a "publicity agent." The *New Columbia Encyclopedia* defines propaganda as "systematic manipulation of public opinion." Public relations is a euphemism for propaganda.

(2) Mr. Upton claims that I used propaganda in my previous letter to you. I am, however, not aligned with any system or with any special interests.

(3) Mr. Upton claims that there is no proof that chemically-grown food is any different in a harmful way than is organically-grown food. However, chemically-grown food contains synthetic residues that have been implicated in many diseases, and organically-grown food is much richer in trace minerals that are necessary to the healthy functioning of the human body.

(4) Mr. Upton claims that my other statements are meaningless because of the "untruths" already addressed. To dismiss information on one subject because the author's information on another subject is disagreeable, a basic ploy of the entrenched propagandist, is to insure narrow-mindedness and to perpetuate ignorance.

In conclusion, I urge your readers to do their own research, to become their own experts.

Paul Hodges
Rt. 5, Mt. Airy

Seasonal Consumer Questions Off-Season Service Charges

I don't have a message to convey, but a question to ask. It concerns two power companies: Florida Power & Light, and Haywood EMC.

I work in Florida five months a year. When I leave there to return to N.C., I phone the FPL, inform them I am leaving and that I am pulling the main fuse. My meter is not read there until I return and reconnect, and there is not one cent charged me in my absence.

In contrast, when I leave my home here in North Carolina, even though I inform the power company that I have pulled the main fuse and that there will be no change in my meter reading until my return, the meter is read every month and I am charged for this absolutely unnecessary "service."

In view of the fact that power companies in other states make no charge in the owner's absence when he disconnects from the power source, why should Haywood EMC charge for a service that is not needed nor given?

Does the EMC have the legal right to charge me for a non-existent service rendered? And, if so, should they have this right?

I. H. Filler
Rt. 1, Candler

EMC's Policy Explained

Mr. Fuller's letter was referred to Eddie Lail, manager of member services at Haywood EMC, for a response. His letter of response follows:

Haywood EMC has a "basic customer charge" for each active meter on the cooperative system because the Board of Directors feels that the availability of service, line construction and maintenance to that meter has caused an expense that justifies a minimum return (basic monthly customer charge) of that investment in line construction, maintenance and kwh availability. The general authority for the "basic customer charge" is provided in the Haywood EMC Service Rules and Regulations, Section 500—Billing—as approved by the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

All investor-owned electric utilities and almost all electric cooperatives in North Carolina have a "basic customer charge". I called the Daytona Beach Florida Power and Light Company to see if they had a monthly minimum. They said they have a basic customer charge of \$3.72 per month for each active meter on their system.

Haywood EMC makes every effort to get a meter reading each month from each meter on our system so long as the meter in question has the potential to use electricity. If the meter is connected, the reading of that meter is

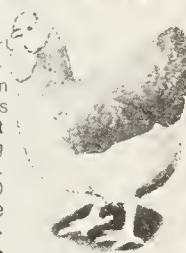
just good basic business. The cooperative has the legal right to both read meters and charge a "basic customer charge" if approved by the Cooperative Board of Directors.

If you choose to have Haywood EMC disconnect the electricity at your residence, Haywood EMC will not bill you as long as the meter is disconnected.

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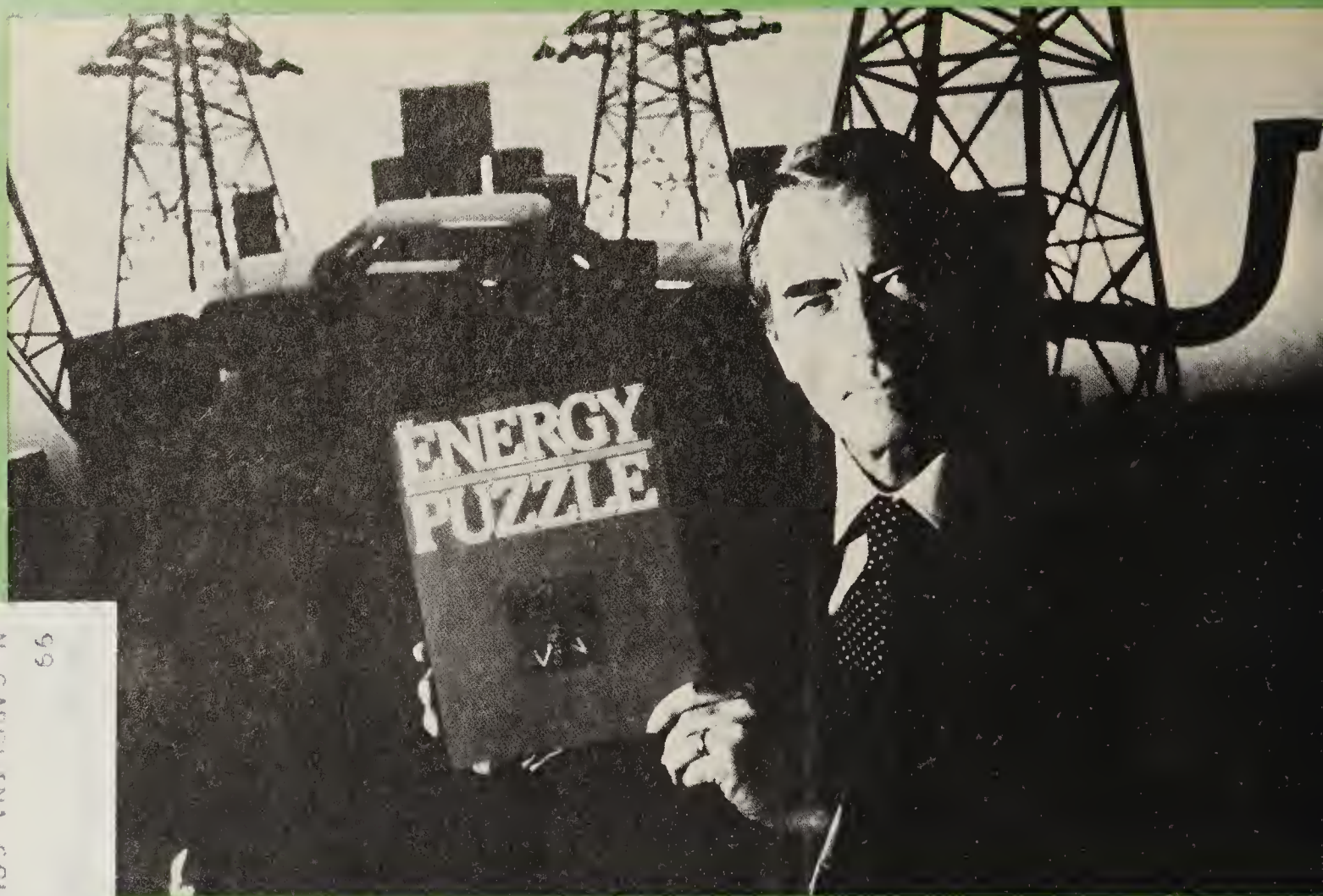
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